

at least one lighting means contained within said housing, said lighting means being activatable by a user when a video conference is occurring and being [arranged to illuminate] directed towards a user of said video conference station;

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keypad means for facilitating entry of information by a user for arranging, exiting, and changing parameters of a video conference;

audio means for conveying an audio signal from one or more conferees;

camera means mounted within said housing and directed toward a user of said video conference station; and

payment means for activating said monitor, said audio means, said lighting means, said camera and said keyboard upon entry of payment.

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7. A video conferencing station for use in a video conferencing system comprising:

an outer casing;

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display means, lighting means, and a video camera, all being mounted within said outer casing, said video camera and said lighting means being directed towards a user of said video conference station [the same area, said display means being viewable from said same area]; and

activating means for activating said display means, said lighting means, and said video camera upon request by a user.

REMARKS

All the pending claims 1- 10 have been rejected by the Examiner either under 35 USC 102 (e) as anticipated by Freeman et al. (US Patent 5,841,469) or under 35 USC 103 (a) over Freeman in view of Sokal et al. (WO 97/14118) and Fujizu (JP 402119390A). The applicant has further amended the independent claims 1 and 7 so as to more clearly define the invention. All claims are now believed to be patentably distinguishable from the cited

patents. The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections based on the amended claims.

More particularly, the applicant expressly defines the lighting means in the independent claims 1 and 7 as “being directed towards a user of said video conference station”. This specific directional arrangement of the lighting means can not be found anywhere in Freeman et al or other cited patents.

Freeman et al. does not disclose the above arrangement of lighting means, but only simply mentions “a fiberglass shell having a lighting and ventilation system” (col. 5, lines 3 -9). Here, the lighting refers to that for illuminating the whole telephone booth, not only the user. It is noted that the controller described in col. 7, lines 24 – 29) in Freeman et al only works to control the light level (see col. 5, lines 7 –9), but not the direction of the lighting.

The specific feature of the present invention is also not found in any of the other cited references. For example, Fujizu (JP402119390) only generally discloses “a lighting body of the lighting section 2 of the entire front face except a display section 10” (see its abstract and Fig. 2), but does not teach the specific directional arrangement of the lighting means as disclosed in the present invention.

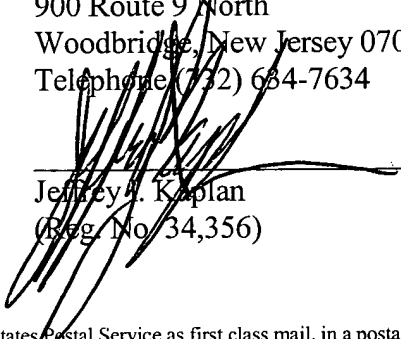
Therefore, with the distinguishing feature of the directional arrangement of the lighting means, amended claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Freeman, nor is the invention obviously conceived from a combination of the cited references. Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are patentable. At least for the same reason, claims 2-6 and 8-10, which are dependent to claims 1 and 7, respectively, are also patentable. The applicant believes the amendment has put the application in good condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application based on the amended claims and the above remarks is respectfully requested. The office is authorized to deduct any additional fees believed due for this CPA application from our

Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Bpt. C.P.O. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 19, 2001.

Signed _____

Dated April 19, 2001

Print Name Jeffrey I. Kaplan

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Replacement of amended claims 1 and 7

1. A video conferencing station comprising:

a monitor;

means connected to said monitor for displaying one or more video images from one or more remotely located conferees;

a housing within which said monitor is contained;

at least one lighting means contained within said housing, said lighting means being activatable by a user when a video conference is occurring and being directed towards a user of said video conference station;

keypad means for facilitating entry of information by a user for arranging, exiting, and changing parameters of a video conference;

audio means for conveying an audio signal from one or more conferees;

camera means mounted within said housing and directed toward a user of said video conference station; and

payment means for activating said monitor, said audio means, said lighting means, said camera and said keyboard upon entry of payment.

7. A video conferencing station for use in a video conferencing system comprising:

an outer casing;

display means, lighting means, and a video camera, all being mounted within said outer casing, said video camera and said lighting means being directed towards a user of said video conference station; and

activating means for activating said display means, said lighting means, and said video camera upon request by a user.